



February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Indian Creek Parents, Students, Staff, and Community:

The purpose of this letter is to update you on recent communication with Paw Paw CUSD #271 regarding their initial request for a high school extracurricular co-op with our District. One of the main questions that surfaced from our District community at our Special Board Meeting held on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, was the long-term vision of Paw Paw's School District: Do they anticipate a long-term co-op or possible high school reorganization with Indian Creek or another district? As a result of the feedback that was shared with Paw Paw, the Indian Creek Board of Education has received new communication from Paw Paw CUSD # 271 stating their interest in a possible grade 9-12 reorganization with our school district.

Illinois State Board of Education defines school district reorganization as the umbrella term which includes the following: deactivation, consolidation, cooperative high school attendance centers, school district conversion, and annexation:

- Deactivation is the closing of a district's elementary attendance center or high school attendance center and the sending the students in grades kindergarten through 8 or 9 through 12 to one or more other districts, once all districts agree.
- Consolidation is the merger of two or more existing districts to create a new district.
- Cooperative High School is the establishment of jointly operated high school by two or more unit or high school districts, each with an enrollment of less than 600 students in grades 9 through 12.
- School District Conversion is the formation of a single new high school district based upon the boundaries of dissolved unit districts.
- Annexation is the incorporation of a portion(detachment) or all (dissolution) of one school district into another school district.

It is currently Paw Paw's intention to reorganize their high school through deactivation with Indian Creek CUSD #425 and continue to maintain their own K-8 school district in Paw Paw.

Our District is in the process of researching and investigating how this will impact our students, staff, District, and community. Our Board of Education is committed to ensuring that all of our students receive a high-quality education while retaining an outstanding instructional staff. If our Board of Education decides to pursue this further, they are committed to ensuring that no Indian Creek teacher would lose their job as a result of a possible reorganization of grades 9-12 with Paw Paw CUSD #271. Also, our District will continue to be named Indian Creek CUSD #425 with the same colors, mascots, and building locations.

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, Paw Paw CUSD #271 held a Special Board Meeting to discuss a potential high school extracurricular co-op and possible high school reorganization with our District. Several Indian Creek Board Members, staff, and I were in attendance. At that meeting, the Paw Paw Board of Education was in consensus about its pursuit of an extracurricular co-op and a possible reorganization of their high school with Indian Creek. The Paw Paw Board of Education asked for community feedback during the meeting. The initial feedback from those in attendance at the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting was 100% supportive of looking at deactivating their high school and tuitioning their high school students into our district. They



plan to hold additional meetings to gauge their community's support while educating their public on the impact to their students, staff, and community.

In this letter, I have included information concerning reorganization and deactivation to better understand the process as well as other reorganization options. The earliest that Paw Paw CUSD #271 could have a referendum vote with their constituents about a grades 9-12 deactivation is the November 2018 election. If approved, implementation would not be until the Fall of 2019 or later. Therefore, we have time to research and investigate this further to ensure this is in the best interest of our students, staff, and community.

We will continue to update you with information and possible meetings as more information becomes available. Our Board of Education intends to have a Special Meeting in the near future to discuss our interest in the co-op and the potential reorganization of Paw Paw's high school. If our Board desires to pursue reorganization further, they will have additional meetings to educate our public and seek community input.

Our Board of Education welcomes all communication regarding this proposed reorganization at the 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade level. If you have any additional questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact me at anytime.

Sincerely,

Chad Willis  
Superintendent